

A NEW VIOLET FROM NEW JERSEY*

BY CHARLES LOUIS POLLARD

Viola Angellae sp. nov.

Plant acaulescent, about 1 dm. high at flowering time, from a stout ascending or erect branching rootstock: young leaves sparsely pubescent, especially along the veins and on the petioles, cordate-ovate in outline, with a broad sinus, irregularly 5-7-lobed or some of them merely deeply sinuate; lobes all obtuse, more or less crenate: scapes somewhat exceeding the foliage: flowers violet-purple, darker at base: sepals oblong, very obtuse, 5 mm. long: petals oblong, rounded and entire at apex, 1-2 cm. long, nearly equal: aestival leaves with petioles 2-2.5 dm. long, greatly surpassing the persistent vernal foliage; the latter leaves more constantly 3-lobed, the lobes irregularly crenate-dentate: cleistogamous flowers few, borne on short, deflexed scapes: capsule oblong.

Types in the U. S. National Herbarium, no. 364,862 (for flowers) collected by Miss Lillie Angell at Orange, New Jersey, in May, 1900; also no. 352,093 (aestival leaves), same locality and collector, June, 1899.

Living plants of this species were sent to me by Miss Angell in 1899, then past the flowering season. The unusual feature of vernal and aestival foliage being present on the same plant attracted my notice, and I asked for additional material, which was afterward placed in my garden. In the spring of 1900 Miss Angell furnished flowering specimens, which I had an opportunity of comparing with those already in flower in the garden, and which proved to have held their characters perfectly. During the season of 1901 the plants have continued to thrive, and show no tendency to approach *V. palmata*, the most nearly related species. They have been grown in close proximity to *Viola palmata*, *V. Brittoniana*, *V. falcata* and *V. viarum*. At the commencement of flowering the species is less distinctive in appearance, although the very earliest leaves show some degree of lobation, which is hardly the case with those of *V. palmata*. The

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flower is quite different in color, and there is much less pubescence on the foliage. These early leaves, as in most violets, are borne on very short petioles, giving the plant a tufted appearance, and causing the flowers to stand out prominently. When the new leaves develop they speedily attain large dimensions, completely overtopping the vernal leaves and the few remaining flowers, so that the plant is really a remarkable sight throughout the greater part of the summer, with two distinct masses of foliage. The cleistogamous flowers are not produced, in cultivation at least, in the same abundance as those of *V. palmata*, so that my plants have not spread to any extent beyond the spot in which they were originally set out.

I wish to express my obligation to Miss Angell for the courtesies she has shown in furnishing notes and material, and to her is due the chief credit of its recognition as a distinct species. It grows in great abundance in tracts of open woodland in the Orange mountains, being associated with *V. palmata* there.

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SHORTER NOTES

ANIMAL MYCOPHAGISTS.—I noticed last summer a large sphingid larva feeding with evident relish upon a plant of *Polyporus flavo-virens* in the woods near Blacksburg, Virginia. It is a matter of common observation that flies, snails, chipmunks and various other animals that inhabit the woods are fond of mushrooms, but it was rather surprising to find a green tomato-worm eating a yellowish-brown and rather tough fungus. Dr. Charles H. Peck in his forty-third report speaks of seeing large tufts of *Armillaria mellea* in the Adirondacks without pilei, which, he thinks, were eaten by deer. It is well known that mushrooms are sometimes eaten by cows, particularly in late summer when the pastures become dry. An interesting case of mycophagy was recently brought to my attention by Mr. M. W. Gorman, of Portland, Oregon, who has botanized considerably in Alaska. He says that in the region west of the Yukon River the small red, or "pine," squirrel lives during the winter upon